

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-13

NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /113 W
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P 302210Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7673

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

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MANILA FOR USDEL TO BANK/FUND MEETING

E/O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OECD, CO

SUBJ: COLOMBIAN APPLICATION FOR OECD MEMBERSHIP

REF: STATE 240671, BOGOTA 9626

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH ECONCOUNSELOR ON SEPT 30 RODOLFO HOMMES, FINANCE MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC CREDIT, PROVIDED SOME ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON COLOMBIA'S DECISION TO APPLY FOR OECD MEMBERSHIP. ACCORDING TO HOMMES, INITIATIVE CAME ENTIRELY FROM FINANCE MINISTER BOTERO WHO, AS EARLY AS LAST JANUARY, BEGAN ATTEMPTS TO GET FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO TO CONCUR IN APPLICATION. LIEVANO WAS HESITANT AT FIRST, BUT EVENTUALLY CAME AROUND TO AGREEING WITH BOTERO. THE IDEA ALSO RECEIVED THE FULL APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT LOPEZ.

2. BOTERO'S ORIGINAL THOUGHT HAD BEEN TO APPLY FOR OBSERVER STATUS. HOWEVER, FOLLOWING VAN LENNEP'S
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NEGATIVE REACTION TO THE INFORMAL APPROACH MADE BY THE

COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR, BOTERO DECIDED TO UP THE ANTE AND APPLY FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP. PART OF THE REASONING BEHIND THE APPLICATION IS BOTERO'S FIRM CONVICTION THAT MANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SIMPLY ARE NOT RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND HAVE NOT EVOLVED THEIR THINKING OR STRUCTURES TO THE POINT OF BEING ABLE TO DEAL WITH TODAY'S REALITIES. HOMMES SAID THAT THE APPLICATION TO THE OECD SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS A DESIRE BY COLOMBIA TO BECOME A WORLD POWER BUT THAT, AS A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THE THIRD WORLD, COLOMBIA FELT THAT IT COULD MAKE A GENUINE CONTRIBUTION TO THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

3. HOMMES INDICATED THAT WHILE COLOMBIA DOUBTED THAT ITS APPLICATION WOULD RECEIVE FULL SUPPORT IN THE OECD, THE GOVERNMENT DID ANTICIPATE THAT SOME TYPE OF FORMAL RELATIONSHIP COULD BE ESTABLISHED.
SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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